

**§28.345 Electrical standards for vessels less than 79 feet (24 meters) in length.**

(a) A vessel less than 79 feet (24 meters) in length with an alternating current electrical distribution system may comply with the requirements of ABYC E-8 and either paragraph (c) or (d) of this section, as applicable, in lieu of meeting the requirements of §§28.350 through 28.370.

(b) A vessel less than 79 feet (24 meters) in length with a direct current system may comply with the requirements of ABYC E-1, ABYC E-9, and either paragraph (c) or (d) of this section, as applicable, in lieu of meeting the requirements of §§28.350 through 28.370.

(c) In addition to paragraph (a) or (b) of this section, the vessel may comply with the requirements of NFPA 302, chapters 7 and 8.

(d) In addition to paragraph (a) or (b) of this section, the vessel may comply with the requirements of 33 CFR part 183, subpart I and §28.370.

**§28.350 General requirements for electrical systems.**

(a) Electrical equipment exposed to the weather or in a location exposed to seas must be waterproof, watertight, or enclosed in a watertight housing.

(b) Aluminum must not be used for current carrying parts of electrical equipment or wiring.

(c) As far as practicable, electrical equipment must not be installed in lockers used to store paint, oil, turpentine, or other flammable or combustible liquid. If electrical equipment, such as lighting, is necessary in these spaces, it must be explosion-proof or intrinsically safe.

(d) Explosion-proof and intrinsically safe equipment must meet the requirements of 46 CFR part 111, subpart 111.105.

(e) Metallic enclosures and frames of electrical equipment must be grounded.

(f) Each vessel with a nonmetallic hull must have a continuous, non-current carrying grounding conductor which connects together the enclosures and frames of electrical equipment and which connects metallic items such as engines, fuel tanks, and equipment enclosures to a common ground point.

(g) The equipment grounding conductor must be sized in accordance with section 250–95 of NFPA Standard 70.

**§28.355 Main source of electrical power.**

(a) *Applicability.* Each vessel that relies on electricity to power any of the following essential loads must have at least two electrical generators to supply these loads:

- (1) The propulsion system and its necessary auxiliaries and controls;
- (2) Interior lighting;
- (3) Steering systems;
- (4) Communication systems;
- (5) Navigation equipment and navigation lights;
- (6) Fire protection or detection equipment;
- (7) Bilge pumps; or
- (8) General alarm system.

(b) Each generator must be attached to an independent prime mover.

**§28.360 Electrical distribution systems.**

(a) Each electrical distribution system which has a neutral bus or conductor must have the neutral bus or conductor grounded.

(b) A grounded electrical distribution system must have only one connection to ground. This ground connection must be at the switchboard or, on a nonmetallic vessel, at the common ground point.

**§28.365 Overcurrent protection and switched circuits.**

(a) Each power source must be protected against overcurrent. Overcurrent devices for generators must be set at a value not exceeding 115 percent of the generator full load rating.

(b) Except for a steering circuit, each circuit must be protected against both overload and short circuit. Each overcurrent device in a steering system power and control circuit must provide short circuit protection only.

(c) Each ungrounded current carrying conductor must be protected in accordance with its current carrying capacity by a circuit breaker or fuse at the connection to the switchboard or distribution panel bus.